

**SEPTIC TANK PUMPERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
DECEMBER 1, 2006 MEETING MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mike Byrnes called the Septic Tank Pumpers Advisory Committee meeting to order on December 1, 2006 at 12:02 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mike Byrnes, Superior Septic Service;
Wade Stout, Badger Pass Septic Service;
John Clark, Scenic City Enterprises;
Don Heimbigner, Don's Septic Service;
Jamie Hillman, Jims Backhoe & Septic System;
Conrad Eckert, Eckert's Services;
Renai Hill, Montana DEQ.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Rick Thompson, Montana DEQ;
George Scriba, Montana DEQ Enforcement.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 6, 2006 MEETING

Mike Byrnes asked for any changes to the draft minutes. There was a name correction of the acting chairman by the committee. A motion to approve the October 6, 2006 minutes was made and seconded. The motion carried and the October 6, 2006 minutes were approved as written.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Enforcement update for 2006

George Scriba briefed the committee on the status of J & M Septic Pumping in Flathead County. This was the unlicensed pumper who dumped into State waters. EPA took the case and he was recently arraigned in Federal Court. He also discussed a second pumper case being worked in the Flathead County where the pumper has over applied pumpings at his land application site. The site has 20 acres. It appeared he was only using 10 acres however the amount being applied required 55+ acres.

George Scriba recommended that those pumpers who land apply pumpings take a good look at the amount they are applying in conjunction with the actual acreage it is being applied to. They need to also take into consideration what is being applied.

The Department has not received any pumper complaints in the past two months.

George Scriba and the committee discussed land applying on frozen and or rain drenched ground. George also stated that disposal records should reflect what is actually happening at the site and why tilling did not take i.e. ground frozen, too muddy, etc. Committee members explained that in the mornings the ground can be frozen when they apply septage. However when they return later in the day the ground has thawed and is

too muddy to till. The annual agronomic application rate in the Montana rules was discussed. George Scriba thinks there should be a change to clarify the start and stop times.

2. SPAC member rules and procedures

The rules and procedures were reviewed a final time with only one addition under Members. Item “a” will now read, “The committee is comprised of seven (7) primary regional volunteer representatives and one at large representative, all with voting privileges”. The committee members present voted and approved the rules and procedures. With the committee members signature, the rules and procedures went into affect on the date signed, December 1, 2006.

3. Graywater definition in the ARM

The committee members discussed the definition and differences between graywater and blackwater. Problems the committee members have been encountering were discussed: especially those during fire season. George Scriba recommended when a problem is observed to report the problem/complaint to Enforcement and include the specific name of the Forest where the problem is happening.

Rick Thompson stated that he wanted Renai Hill to send out, April of each year, a current list of licensed pumpers with a cover letter to the National Forest Headquarters, Regional Offices, and DNRC.

Rick Thompson requested the committee members write up a statement addressing graywater. The statement should indicated that it is from the SPAC, define the problem clearly, and include suggested solutions. The committee recommended that DEQ attend and get on the agenda of the annual National Forest Services meeting that is held each year prior to fire season. DEQ would discuss graywater and what Montana considers proper management. Rick Thompson stated that once the Department receives the statement from the committee and it's been reviewed etc. Renai Hill can draft a letter with Richard Oppers's signature to send out to the Forest Service and DNRC.

4. Draft Septic Pumper Guide

Conrad Eckert recommended adding vehicle inspection requirements in the guide to include putting the name of the business and STP license number on the vehicle. In the past the rules required the STP license number on the pumper truck, however, that requirement is no longer in the rules. Rick Thompson stated that requirement was when Solid Waste was under DPHHS. Renai Hill stated that this is two separate issues and both would be a rule requirement not a guide requirement. Rick Thompson requested the committee members write up a statement addressing vehicle inspections, how often vehicle inspections are required, what is to be inspected (8 or 9 items such as serviceable hoses, splash plate etc. for a checklist), and a second statement stating the requirements for the placement of the business name/license number on the vehicle. The committee discussed who would conduct the inspections on the vehicles and how quickly you will need to have new vehicles inspected.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Confirm next meeting date

The next meeting will be held on January 19, 2007 during lunch (11:00am – 12:15pm) at the Septic Pumper Training Conference.

2. Agenda items for next meeting

Statement for graywater

Statement and checklist for vehicle inspections.

Statement for business name and STP license number on all pumper vehicles.

3. County Sanitarian Position

The sanitarian committee member position was discussed. Barbara Woodbury from Sanders County Health Department has volunteered to fill the sanitarian position on the committee. She was unable to attend this meeting. However, she would be attending the training in January.

Mike Byrnes adjourned the meeting at 2:55p.m.